

*The*  
Inyo-  
Mono **NEWS-  
LETTER**

August  
1982

**75¢**

*BK's  
notes  
P. 23*



**The Story  
Behind The  
Death Valley  
Murders  
P 9**



**EXCLUSIVE PHOTOS: PP.12-13**

**Few brave voices in the water war P.17**



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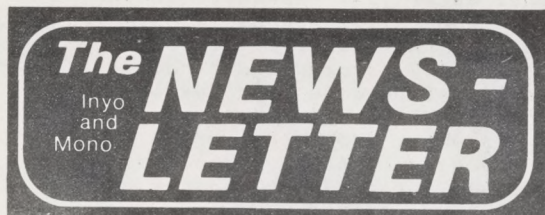
Highway 395 at Topaz Lake



## ON THE COVER

Alleged kidnap/rape victim Irmgard Frank of Germany with interpreter prior to Independence court hearing. Accused assailant (bottom photo) Ray Rather is met by the media on a walk to court.

Photos: Benett Kessler Marilyn Fisher



### A News Alternative Eastern Sierra News Service

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Telephones: (714) 878-2381 and 878-2582

Inyo County staff:  
John Heston, editor  
Benett Kessler  
Marilyn Fisher  
Andrew Kirk  
Leah Kirk

Mono County:  
Wally Charleston  
Contributing photo  
and editorial staff:  
W. Paul Payne, Southern Inyo area  
Susan Sorrells, Death Valley area

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Andrew and Leah Kirk

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# FORUM your view



The News-Letter welcomes readers' letters and comments relevant to public issues. Letters should be brief and concisely stated. The editors remind readers that publication of a letter does not necessarily imply either the editor's agreement with its content, or its accuracy. Address letters to PO Box 531, Independence, California 93526.

John Heston, editor

## WATER REFORM INITIATIVE: INYO-MONO ARE LEFT OUT BUT A READER IS CURIOUS...

Editor:

I noted with interest your editorial on the need for cooperation in the water war between Inyo and Mono. Sounds like a theme I've heard before! Now that Proposition 9 has failed I understand the next big push statewide, which the Mono Lake people are backing, is the Water Resources Conservation and Efficiency Reform Initiative. What's your position on that? If the Mono Supervisors aren't in a mood to cooperate with Inyo, why not work directly with the Mono Lake Committee, which seems to be so well mobilized? They are certainly stirring the pot in Sacramento and in Washington, and as we've long said, you've got to mobilize public support beyond Los Angeles if you're going to get the relief you seek.

John L. Krizek  
Woodland Hills

(Editor's note: The voters of Inyo and Mono Counties joined the state in defeating Prop. 9 with voters over 70%

against the measure. There were mixed sentiments on the Peripheral Canal issue with many people simply voting against what they perceived to be yet another grab elsewhere in the state. Some said they had considered vo another water grab elsewhere in the state. Some said they had considered voting for the measure...not because they actually favored the canal in concept, but because they reasoned that if Southern California could draw its water from other areas that Inyo and Mono might be spared some of the damage. That logic had the potential of sacrificing one area of the state for the questionable benefit of another. But it does not address the real source of the problem: The ever-growing, ever-thirsty metropolitan areas which see fit to drain places like Inyo-Mono. It would simply replace one victim with another or, worse, create two victims.

The attention now turns to the Water Conservation and Efficiency Act, which will appear on the November ballot. Perhaps there has not been much local attention to that measure

continued on page 8

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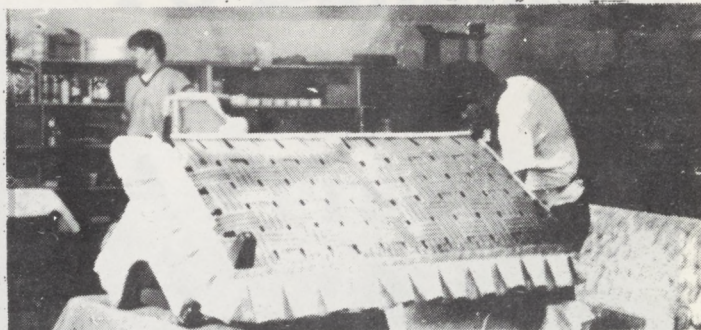
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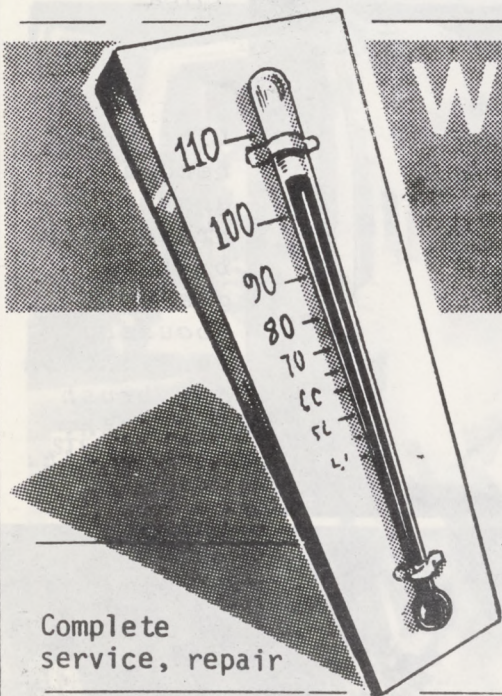
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# Fire season



*Thunder and lightening have rumbled and crackled this summer, creating spectacular light shows but also causing many lightening fires. Spontaneous combustion has been blamed for other fires like the one below.*



PHOTOS  
BY  
DUANE  
COLE

*Litter is becoming another culprit, with broken glass focusing sunlight on dry brush or trash. The result: Fire.*

*The biggest this season was near Division Creek north of Independence where more than 600 acres went up in flames. The wet winter created vegetation which can ferment as it builds up heat. When summer temperatures are high enough, the brush can ignite.*





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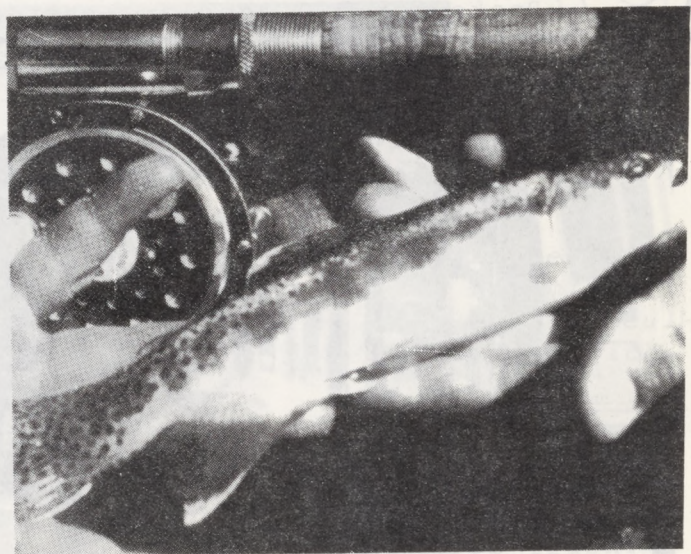
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# Benbrook



by  
Clarence  
Benbrook

READING THE HEADLINES IS ENOUGH TO MAKE ONE CRY THESE DAYS. BUT NOT CLARENCE BENBROOK... WITH TONGUE PLANTED FIRMLY IN CHEEK, HE QUIPS HIS WAY THROUGH CURRENT EVENTS.

We have checks and balances in our form of government. The more checks they write, the more off balance we get.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our government is controlled by supply and demand. Everybody is demanding and nobody is supplying.

\*\*\*\*\*

Iran and Iraq allow no reporters in their war zones. The last think they want is a lie detector.

\*\*\*\*\*

Life expectancy in the U.S. is at an all time high. This causes the Social Security Administration to go into deep shock and deep hock.

\*\*\*\*\*

Illegitimate births in the U.S. are up 332% in 30 years. An epidemic of unwed fathers.

\*\*\*\*\*

Soviets surpassed U.S. in arms export race. We lost by a war head.

\*\*\*\*\*

Reagan planning on vetoing spending and support bills. Tip O'Neill will call him an abominable no man.

\*\*\*\*\*

Soviets expect to send 1000 people to the Olympics in Los Angeles. Two thirds of them will be athletes. The other third will be spies.

\*\*\*\*\*

The average age of the world's greatest civilizations is 200 years. No wonder the economy is in intensive care.

\*\*\*\*\*

Brezhnev calls for nuclear freeze. With his freezer full and ours empty.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dept. of Water and Power goes from one ex-stream to another.

\*\*\*\*\*

You can always tell a compact car. They're the only car that can hit a jack rabbit head on and get totalled.

\*\*\*\*\*

Ex-Senator Williams, on resigning from the Senate because of Abscam, stated that he didn't want the Senate to bring dishonor to itself by expelling him. If Senator Williams had his honor removed, it would be a very minor operation.

\*\*\*\*\*

\$22 million spent yearly on ex-presidents. Old presidents never die. They just keep on spending taxpayer's money.

\*\*\*\*\*

A 26-year-old woman gets \$62,500 for her 113 lb. prize sheep at a livestock auction. From now on she's going to live off the fat of the lamb.

\*\*\*\*\*

DWP wants Inyo County to drop two lawsuits and go into business with them on hydro development in exchange for four acres of land. Judas betrayed Christ for only 30 pieces of silver.

\*\*\*\*\*

Soap operas making lots of money. The wages of sin are excellent.

\*\*\*\*\*

If all the leaks in Washington were stopped, the Potomac River would dry up.

\*\*\*\*\*

A federal civil defense plan envisions moving 19 million California city dwellers to the country in case of nuclear war. What if they all came to the Owens Valley? What if only two million came?

\*\*\*\*\*

Ranchers and farmers who settled the west would rather have parted with their wives than their water. The water is gone. Lock up your wife because the DWP is still around.

\*\*\*\*\*

The only good thing about paying taxes is being able to afford them.

\*\*\*\*\*

Nuclear war is the most important issue in the world. Unless you are unemployed and starving.

*Ben*

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# News Briefs

## GUIDED BORES: TRAVELS THROUGH THE WORST OF INYO AND MONO

Let's face it. In the Eastern Sierra, the name of the game is tourism. Splashy four-color brochures extoll the beauties of local scenic wonders and all the great "Things To Do" in our little corner of paradise.

Now a new concept has emerged at the hands of local writer and photographer Valerie Naso. She calls her enterprise "Boredom Tours" and with tongue planted firmly in cheek, offers to squire customers through the low points of the Eastern Sierra. The company motto: "Where the Best is Passed."

The true spirit of Boredom Tours is best shown by quoting from their brochure:

**BISHOP NIGHT LIFE** -- Viewed from the back of a pickup truck with chairs in the back, or from a Cadillac convertible. Appropriate refreshments provided. Approximately two hours of utter boredom. Monday through Thursday suggested, weekends optional. \$50 per person.

**LAWS RAILROAD MUSEUM** -- Tour this historic location when it's closed. Hang over the fence and see all the interesting things you could view in the daytime. Refreshments will be provided in the empty lot by the Drover's Hotel. Evenings only. A drive to Chalfant Valley is optional. One to three hours at \$50 to \$75 per person.

**NIGHT LIFE IN BIG PINE** -- A visit to the nameless bar with TWO pool tables. Drag Main once. Home by 10 p.m. \$28.82.

**UP THE CREEK** (no paddles necessary) -- Enjoy a scenic drive with the top down and a view of Pine Creek all the way. A U-turn will be featured at Union Carbide, world's largest tungsten mine. Lunch will be served on the trunk at a wide spot in the road. Hardy souls may gather their own watercress from a fresh water spring. Two hours, more or less. \$45 per person.

**CURDS AND WHEY DAY** -- Discover Bishop's Buttermilk Country. A half literate guide will show you where to find crystals, pluck flowers and turn over rocks to look for worms. Western tailgate lunch will be served somewhere before starvation. Tour leaves Bishop at 11 a.m. \$50 per person.

**CAVIAR TOUR** -- A fast ride through West Bishop for a view of elegant homes while munching on caviar and crackers. 30 minutes. \$7.50 per person.

**TAKE YOUR BODY TO BODIE** -- and put your mind in the hands of Boredom Tours. An afternoon in the West's foremost ghost town with a clear view down the impassible road to Aurora, Nevada. A certain amount of oral history and a certain amount of food are included.

We understand that Naso offers many of these tours in her classic 1954 Cadillac convertible just to get customers in the proper frame of mind. While it is not known how briskly these tours are selling this summer, Boredom Tours' varied offerings are listed on the computer terminals of at least two travel agencies.

No word yet on what local chambers of commerce think of the tours.

## THE HIGH COST OF FLYING TO THE RESCUE

During the summer months the majestic Sierra stand as a mecca to which faithful backpackers and mountain climbers make regular pilgrimages. But for some, who climb too high, stay out too long or sink their ice axes into more than they can handle, an adventuresome vacation can turn into a nightmare.

For Inyo-Mono residents, the sight or sound of a helicopter hovering over a rocky escarpment as part of a search and rescue operation is an all too familiar one. When the target area is a remote one the precious moments saved by the use of a helicopter can often mean the difference between life and death for the accident victim.

But helicopters and their crews cost money--lots of it. When choppers from military bases come in to assist the tab is reportedly

Continued on page 14

## FORUM continued from page 2

but it is not without reason. The initiative completely ignores the Owens Valley in its list of 11 "critical overdraft areas."

While the concept of the initiative--to require water conservation measures and to restrict groundwater extraction--is one supported by many in Inyo-Mono, some are offended that Eastern Sierra water issues were passed over. Sources within the organization promoting that initiative, The Water Protection Council of Sacramento, tell us it was a simple case of political cold feet. Had Owens Valley or Mono Lake been included for protection under the measure, organizers believed it would have brought about massive pressure from the Los Angeles Dept. of Water and Power and their lobbyists to defeat it. Rather than open the door to attack, the initiative organizers simply avoided the touchy issue and Inyo-Mono was left out.

Offended or not, the Mono Lake Committee, as you point out, has gone on record as endorsing the initiative because of its affect on statewide water problems. The reasoning there, of course, is that for every drop of the precious commodity saved, it is one fewer that will be demanded by thirsty powers like DWP. Maybe so. Water conservation is admirable and very necessary. But until legislation like this initiative can face up to the realities of political pressure and tackle the real root of the problem, any relief for Inyo-Mono will take the form of the proverbial drop in the bucket.)



# A VACATION NIGHTMARE

by Benett Kessler

When summer descends on Death Valley, it spares no fury. This year it brought sizzling temperatures of 130 degrees and, true to the location, it also brought death as a grisly tale of torture, execution and rape unfolded. The murder of two German tourists and the rape of another soon grabbed the attention of not only local and Nevada media, but also that of international publications.

And the background of this tragic case is indeed international in scope. The drama came to light when a Yugoslavian civil engineer--who fittingly works for a German company in Toronto, Canada--missed a plane to Tonopah for a business trip. Fedor Rip, 36, tried to board a plane at Las Vegas but customs agents there became suspicious of his passport, which showed a number of trips in and out of this country. He was finally cleared, but too late to catch

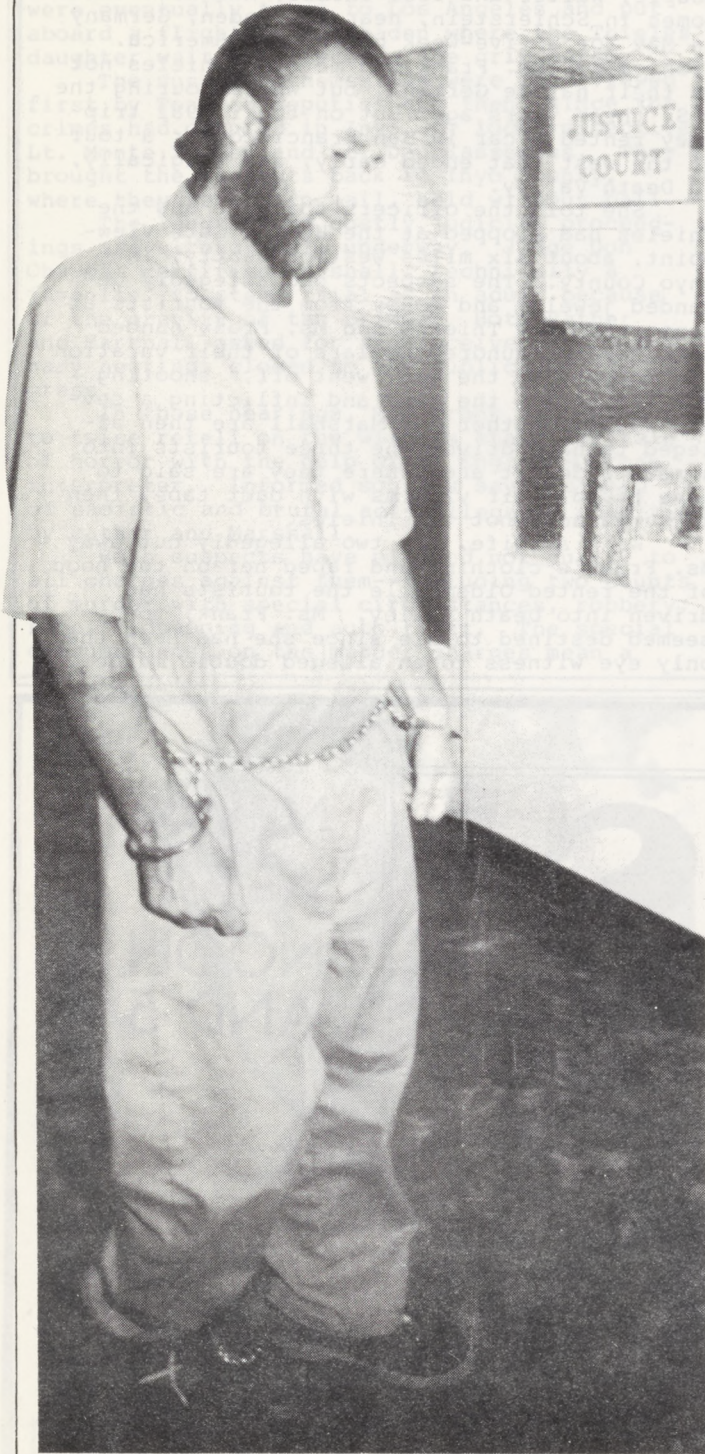
SEE EXCLUSIVE PHOTO SPREAD, PAGES 12-13

his plane. Instead, Rip decided to rent a car and drive to Tonopah.

Outside Beatty, Nev. Rip saw something that eventually led him to a hero's role. He noticed a woman in the car ahead of him on the highway. She was frantically waving at him out the back window and seeming to form the words "help me" with her lips.

Fascinated, Rip continued to watch. Then he saw someone yank the woman down out of sight. Realizing that the woman was in trouble, he says

continued next page



Arrested within hours of the alleged murder and rape, suspects Ray Rather (above) and Bobby Marshall (right) will now stand trial in Inyo courts. Rather's case will carry a possible death penalty.

Photos: Marilyn Fisher





continued from page 9

he wrestled with the idea of forcing the car off the road, but finally decided it would be wiser to pass it as if he had seen nothing.

But Fedor Rip had seen enough. He drove straight to the sheriff's office in Tonopah where he gave a description of the car--he had not been able to note the license number-- and told deputies what he had seen. The engineer then rented a motel room and went to dinner with some of his business colleagues.

When he returned to his room that night, Rip had a message from the Tonopah Sheriff's Office: They had captured two men and rescued the frantic woman he had seen, 28-year-old Irmgard Frank. Rip said he was startled to find out much later that a double murder and a rape had been involved in that case.

After receiving the information from Rip, Tonopah deputies had begun an immediate lookout for the vehicle he described. Sgt. Mark Zane and Deputy Eddie Newman found that car at the Burger Master fast food restaurant in Tonopah.

Tonopah Lt. Norm Woodworth said his men carefully approached the car. While one of officers apprehended the driver, 41-year-old Ray Rather, the other deputy walked up behind the car. Woodworth said the officer saw a woman staring at him and when he opened the back door, she quickly bolted from the back seat to safety. After a slight struggle, Woodworth said the officer pulled Bobby Marshall, 17, out of the back seat.

While Ms. Frank's journey of horror ended at that Tonopah hamburger stand, the tale was only beginning to unfold for law enforcement

officers. Ms. Frank, a German social worker, speaks little English and was unable to immediately tell her story. But a Tonopah deputy's wife, Renatta Dutcher, is a native of Germany and was able to translate for the officers.

The story Ms. Frank told was the stuff of which nightmares are made. She told the officers that she and the middle-aged German couple, Walter and Ilse Thiele, had left their homes in Schierstein, near Wiesbaden, Germany in May for a five-week holiday in America. Ironically, Ms. Frank had met the Thieles not in their native Germany, but while touring the U.S. three years ago. But on their 1982 trip they rented a car in San Francisco for a tour of the west that ended early, and tragically, in Death Valley.

She told the officers that she and the Thieles had stopped at the Hell's Gate Viewpoint, about six miles west of Beatty, in Inyo County. The suspects had allegedly demanded jewelry and money from the tourists at gunpoint. The Thieles and Ms. Frank handed over several hundred dollars of their vacation money but then the gun "went off," shooting Mrs. Thiele in the hand and inflicting a severe wound. Rather and Marshall are then alleged to have driven the three tourists into a remote desert area where they are said to have bound their victims with duct tape, then tortured and shot the Thieles.

With a knife, the two allegedly cut away Ms. Frank's clothing and raped her on the hood of the rented Oldsmobile the tourists had driven into Death Valley. Ms. Frank, too, seemed destined to die since she had been the only eye witness to an alleged double murder.

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Benett Kessler



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But her captors elected to keep her alive a while longer. It was that margin of a few hours' time that may have saved her life.

When Tonopah deputies found the Thieles, they were already dead. Pathologist Rene Maudlin performed the autopsies and declared, not surprisingly, that the couple had died of gunshot wounds. Inyo Coroner Ted Sullivan then contacted the German consulate in Los Angeles to find the next of kin. The bodies were eventually taken to Los Angeles and put aboard a flight to Wiesbaden where the Thieles' daughter waited to receive the grim cargo.

The suspects themselves were interviewed first by Tonopah deputies and then, since the crimes had occurred in Inyo, by local detectives Lt. Monte Yancey and Lt. Dan Kassemous. They brought the suspects back to Inyo County, where they remain in jail, held without bail.

The lengthy and costly judicial proceedings are already well underway. Judge Don Chapman certified Marshall, technically a juvenile, to stand trial as an adult because of the gravity of the crimes. Both Rather and Marshall asked for and received preliminary hearings closed to the public and the press.

In those hearings, Ms. Frank was asked to twice retell on the witness stand her tale of horror with the help of an English-German interpreter. Informed sources say she told of sadistic and brutal acts allegedly committed by Rather and Marshall.

Both suspects have pleaded not guilty to all charges against them--including two counts of murder with special circumstances, robbery, rape, kidnapping and auto theft. The special circumstances on the murder charges mean a

possible death penalty for Rather, but the juvenile, by law, cannot be executed.

The whole ordeal promises to be a lengthy one. Jury selection for a two-month trial for Rather is expected to begin in January.

As for Fedor Rip, the engineer turned hero, he and Ms. Frank were introduced for the first time at Rather's preliminary hearing. "Thank you," she told the witness, "Thank you for saving my life."

SEE ADDITIONAL PHOTOS NEXT PAGE

## ICTV CH.12 Bishop



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A change of travel plans brought Fedor Rip to the Nevada highway where he rescued a tourist.





A jumbled mass of clothing lay scattered about the van, above and inset, in which defendants Ray Rather and Bobby Marshall had been driving. Much of the clothing was children's, said to belong to Rather's two youngsters.

At right, the men who came to the rescue: Tonopah deputy Eddie Newman, witness Fedor Rip, and lawmen Sgt. Mark Zane and Lt. Norm Woodworth. Rip spotted the victim in trouble; Zane and Newman made the arrest.



Photos:  
Marilyn Fisher  
John Heston

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# A VACATION NIGHTMARE

FOR THREE GERMAN TOURISTS, A VISIT TO CALIFORNIA ENDED IN TRAGEDY AT DEATH VALLEY AND NOW INYO COUNTY FACES YET ANOTHER LONG AND COSTLY TRIAL

Article begins on page 9



showing their hometown pride even on a vacation to the United States, the German tourists displayed a "Wiesbaden-Wunderbar" sticker in the back window of the car they rented in San Francisco for a tour of the West Coast. Their vacation came to an abrupt end with the tragic double murder of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Thiele and the rape of their companion, Irmgard Frank.

The killings attracted the attention of the foreign press as well. The German newspaper Bildzeitung sent reporter Erskine McCullough and photographer Laurence Cottrell to cover the story. McCullough ended up testifying before the preliminary hearing but was ejected along with local reporters when Judge Pat Hanford ruled coverage of the hearing might impede selection of an impartial jury.



Hero Fedor Rip with victim Irmgard Frank.





picked up by the military. Of course, the taxpayers actually end up footing the bill.

But when the Forest Service or private helicopters fly to the rescue, the victims or their families must pay. What's a one-way trip from the mountains to the hospital cost these days? Well, it varies depending upon flight time (billed at \$323 per hour) and mileage for refueling trucks. But Forest Service foreman Harold Brown, who runs the Independence Helitack base, says a ballpark figure for a fairly simple rescue might run \$400 to \$450. When the Forest Service or an independent contractor (Mono County sometimes uses a helicopter from one of the private heliski outfits in the area) participates in the rescue, they bill the county. Then it's up to Inyo or Mono to bill the home county of the rescued person. That county, in turn, may try to recover the costs from the victim or the family.

Do these people pay up? It's hard to say. Inyo Sheriff's Inspector Bob Vaulet says bills for rescue work come through his office but he says he's yet to see one for this season. "I don't know if they bill on the quarter, half or fiscal year. I haven't seen any billing sheets come through but if they bill us I'll know it."

Evidently the collection rate isn't outstanding. Says Vaulet: "The only one I can remember where we got paid what we asked was three or four years ago for a fatality near Lone Pine. The search lasted a week. But we ended up losing the helicopter time because the folks reneged on their promise to pay."

In Inyo County the Sheriff's Office typically requires the rescued person or someone in the party to sign a form promising to pay for the helicopter service. While that policy might seem hard-hearted, it's not without reason.

Forest Service officials say that many people, once out of a panic situation and safely back to civilization, try to get out of repaying the rescue costs. And in fact, many so-called "rescues" are not quite as serious as they are originally reported. Says Brown: "We get many reports of multiple fractures or

other bad injuries and it turns out to be nothing more than a sprained ankle. I'd say out of every ten search and rescue helicopter flights, about four of them could have walked out or been taken out by horseback. When we go in after someone and the victim beats me back to the helicopter, it makes me mad. I'm a taxpayer too, and I'm concerned.

"We don't always think about the costs. If it's a matter of life and death we'll go and get the job done and worry about the costs later. The gratifying part is getting someone who's seriously injured to a hospital and proper care. There are times we feel helpless, like with that climber on Whitney (a Connecticut man who died after a fall there last month). I wish we could have just reached out and grabbed him but there was nothing we could do. I guess that just comes with the territory."

In the case of that particular rescue, helicopters from China Lake Naval Weapons Center were called in because they can do things the Forest Service choppers cannot. As Brown points out, the Forest Service helicopters are based here to suppress forest fires--rescue work is only secondary. For instance, the China Lake military aircraft carry a "sky genie" which is capable of lowering rescue personnel into a tight area while the helicopter hovers above, they can fly at night and they can land in rougher terrain. But on the other side of the coin, the local forest service choppers, because they are based so much nearer, can often be on the scene in a matter of minutes.

And when it comes to search and rescue work, minutes often make the difference.

## DO YOU KNOW THE WAY TO BISHOP AIRPORT? THE FAA DOESN'T

The wheels of government turn slowly and not, it seems, without some confusion.

Inyo County recently put in a bid for a Federal Aviation Flight Center at Bishop Airport. The FAA will build that center somewhere in a five-county area of which Inyo and Mono are a part. The project stands as a plum to whichever county gets the bid since it would bring with it 50 to 80 new jobs.

Well, early on Mono County decided to drop out of the running because officials there saw the project as too costly. Inyo, however, while it too said it could not afford to construct a building like the FAA wants, instead offered to lease them the land for a nominal sum and let them build their own facility. Inyo Public Works Director Harold Callahan called it "a shot in the dark" but figured it was worth a try.

But now he's trying to find out where Inyo stands in that race. And when dealing with bureaucracies bigger than the county's, that's not an easy task. Callahan says he tried to get in touch with the contract officer but was told she is away on "extended leave" and no one else in the FAA office had any idea when a decision might be due on who gets the flight center.

"It's a screwed up mess down there," said Callahan. "When I told them I was from Inyo County they asked if that was near Paso Robles."

Sounds like the FAA needs its own flight plan.

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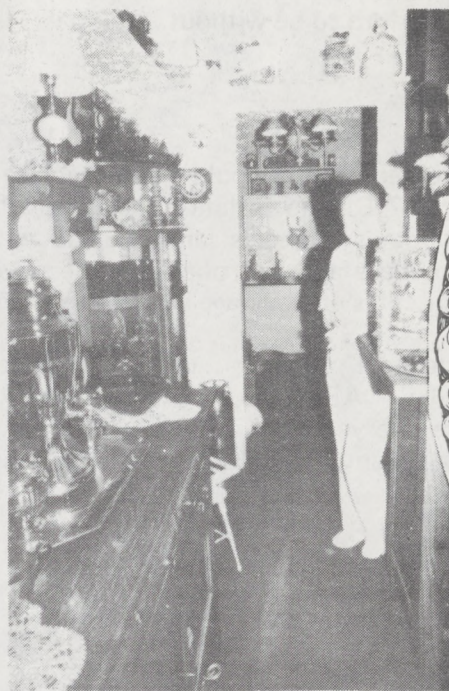
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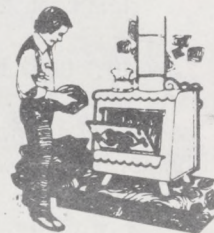
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# BRAVE NEW STAND ?

WHAT STARTED OUT AS A FORCEFUL NEW STRATEGY OF THE INYO SUPERVISORS TO REJECT MORE WATER TALKS WITH L.A. BECAME SOMEWHAT LESS SPINELESS WHEN DWP OFFERED TO PAY FOR PART OF A STATE-FEDERAL WATER STUDY

Like a spring ritual, every year the Los Angeles Dept. of Water and Power tries to lead Inyo County into an "agreement." And every year, the Inyo Supervisors almost fall for it.

But this time, a powerful voice spoke out with sharp criticism of DWP's proposed agreement, and that proposal withered like Owens Valley plants subjected to groundwater pumping. For many months, former County Administrator John K. Smith set politics aside and enjoyed his retirement. But when DWP tried to lure Inyo into yet another agreement, his silence ended.

While administrator at the courthouse, Smith wielded power over government matters. But when he spoke up as a private citizen, Smith's voice was even more potent. He arranged to present a commentary on Bishop's Channel 12 television news. Without a prepared script, Smith looked into the camera and told Inyo's officials to forget about

that agreement. With authority, he lambasted the proposal's land exchange, hydro-power deal, and lawsuit settlements.

In a closed session, the supervisors talked over what they wanted to do about the agreement. They decided to let it drop. Courthouse observers say that Mr. Smith's words alone very probably altered the course of events.

The supervisors appeared to be taking a brave new stand on DWP issues. They sent a stinging letter to DWP refusing to negotiate on water issues and insisting on immediate action on the groundwater ordinance lawsuit.

But then in something of a flip-flop from past stands, it was the Water Commissioners who said they wanted DWP to pay for part of an Owens Valley groundwater study. Of course, DWP wanted something in return: A three-year delay of the groundwater ordin-

continued on page 21



WHEN JOHN K. TALKS, PEOPLE LISTEN...Some feel Inyo's former CAO John K. Smith defeated the latest agreement with DWP when he spoke out against it. Now Smith lambasts DWP's attempts to buy into local water studies, and Inyo's apparent willingness to fall for it.

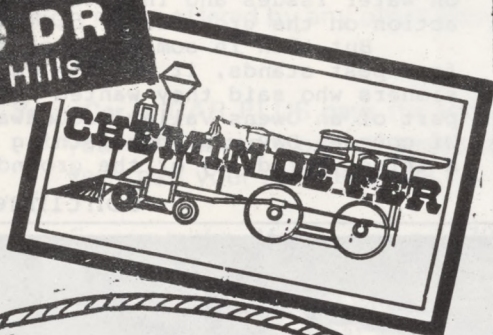


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# View from the Right



Paul  
Payne

IT'S SAID THE ONLY SURE THINGS IN THIS LIFE ARE DEATH AND TAXES...ADD ANOTHER WITH PAUL PAYNE'S UNENDING HATRED OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM AND HIGH INTEREST.

A quote from Martin Luther's *Table Talk*, published in the early 1500's may help to explain many of the problems we Americans are facing today: "The Heathen, out of natural reason and understanding, were able to render an account that an Usurer is a three-fold thief and murderer."

The usury charged today on the national debt is both thievery and murder. It steals as a surtax on the tax we pay for running the government, this for the benefit of the lenders. It murders as the cost of doing business becomes unbearable and the business dies. The availability of money for business, at reasonable rates of interest, is its very life blood.

Politicians have become so beholden to the money lenders that in most states the usury laws have either been repealed or modified so as to render them useless.

A man needs to finance a portion of his home. With 20 to 30 percent interest rates, he must pay three or four times its original cost. Is that not being held in slavery to the money lender?

Interest rates in the United States have been traditionally much lower than those permitted in other countries. As a result we have been the envy of the world because of our high standard of living, business prosperity and human progress. Since the advent of usurious interest rates, we are falling in all phases. We are no longer the "bright star" to which the whole world looked and admired.

Under pressure of the national and international bankers, Congress passed the Federal

Reserve Act. This act removed control of our money from "We the people" (Congress) and placed it in the hands of the bankers. This was a direct violation of Article I, Section 8, Paragraph 4 of the Constitution. Our founding fathers well knew the problems of the old world and its money lenders and realized that if this new nation was to remain free and prosperous, the people must retain control of their money. How wise they were.

Money lenders have now secured a stranglehold on our economic system through usurious interest charges to where our taxes have become both burdensome and non-productive, yes, even confiscatory. Business is having great difficulty in functioning, unemployment and crime hold the headlines, many are losing their homes and our whole economic system is grinding to a halt.

Marcus Cate, a Roman statesman and the usurer's enemy, about 140 B.C., said: "Little thieves lie stocked and ironed in prisons but great thieves ride prancing silk and chains of gold."

A return to Constitutional government is a must if we are ever able to solve our economic problems.

THINK ABOUT IT!

*Paul*

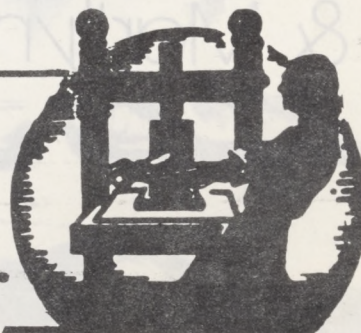
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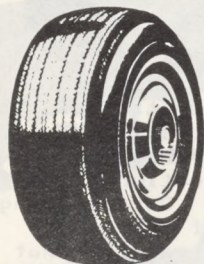
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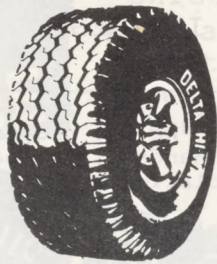
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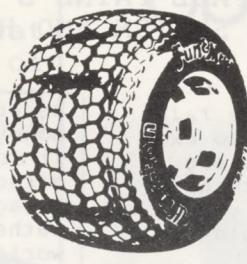
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WATER continued from p. 17

ance. Several Inyo Water Commissioners indicated they might go along with that. But behind the scenes politicking caused them to have some second thoughts.

The strategy-ignorant commissioners nearly fell for DWP's plan to buy time, hoping to delay the ordinance until the supervisors totally lose interest in it.

Still hammering hard for an agreement, and for concessions from Inyo, Los Angeles officials arranged for a private meeting in L.A. City councilwoman Joan Flores was there along with some other top officials. Inyo Supervisors Wilma Muth and Johnny Johnson were there with Water Commissioners Cindy O'Connor and Harry Holgate. So much for the "firm" stand against more negotiations.

DWP still wants very much to get involved in the groundwater studies proposed by the U.S. Geological Survey. Some Inyo Supervisors, only capable of focusing on dollar signs, want DWP to pay for part of the study.

We asked former administrator Smith, a man very familiar with DWP's motives and hidden agendas, what he thinks of DWP contributing to the study. His comments follow:

"I think it's a serious mistake if the county allows the City of Los Angeles to put cash dollars into that study. They should be joining with the City of Los Angeles to pressure the Department of Water Resources of California to come up with the needed match money for the USGS study. The study should be done by the USGS and the Department of Water Resources...funding the total cost of the study.

"The USGS and DWR, since it is the responsibility of the state, they should fund and do the study strictly on their own as far as

the financial responsibility is concerned."

We asked Smith why he thinks DWP should not contribute money to these studies. He replied, "Well, if DWP contributes any amount of money...\$100,000 or \$200,000 toward this study, I think it goes without saying that the city would have a large control over how the study is made, how the study is written, and what the impacts of the study would be on the valley. And I don't think that kind of control over that study is in anybody's interest but the City of Los Angeles'. So we shouldn't allow the city to have any financial contribution, and hopefully by not allowing that they wouldn't have any control over the outcome of that report."

But what about immediate action on water issues? Smith had some comments on that, too.

"Right now the county should make it clear that they're going to pursue their EIR on the groundwater ordinance to its completion. Then they should adopt it and have the ordinance in effect full force by next spring so they can catch all of the pumping permits in that time.

"They should also pursue this USGS study anyway they can to get it started, as long as it's funded by USGS and DWR or any state and federal agencies that have the money. They should get that five-year study started so that eventually we will have a complete comprehensive study of this groundwater basin. Those are the main thrusts that the county of Inyo should pursue at this point."

Again, strong words from a proven leader. But whether anyone in county government now will choose to listen remains to be seen.

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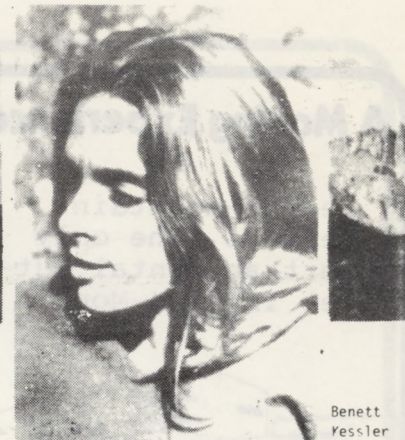
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# Notes from B.K.



SOME EYESIGHT (READ FORESIGHT) PROBLEMS IN THE BOARDROOMS/ TALK OF A MONO JUDICIAL RECALL QUIETS/ LONE PINE SOFTBALL PLAYERS GET LEFT IN THE DARK

"WHERE THERE IS NO VISION, THE PEOPLE PERRISH." So says the proverb. Some of Inyo-Mono's myopic leaders better get some glasses to help them see beyond the next five minutes or even the next election.

There are few moments of clarity in the supervisorial chambers --very few. History shows that men of vision lead people to a better life. Shortsighted men lead them right off a cliff.

Both Inyo and Mono Counties may face devastating water problems in the future. The time to deal with the potential devastation is now. Even DWP has more foresight than the so-called leaders of these two counties. It's just that the L.A. motive is greed.

\*\*\*\*\*

HAS SOMEONE IN WASHINGTON ordered the bureaucrats of the nation to behave as dogmatically as they possibly can? The bureaus have always mechanistically carried out their regulations. But in the past year, their fascination with detail and petty power trips have turned to seeming madness.

In Inyo and Mono, Forest Service officials insist on having it their way, using convenient regulations to back up their bureaucratic domain. The Tunnel Meadows Airstrip located near Lone Pine in a wilderness area *should* remain open. And now it looks as though it will after much expensive haggling with the Forest Service. The Forest Service gravel pit near Mammoth *should* go. It seems the Forest Service even contradicts itself...preserving the natural beauty in one place, sinking a gravel pit in the midst of a meadowland in the next.

The U.S. government should have turned over federal acres to the Western states to start with. But someone back in Washington must have known how valuable all of these timber lands and minerals would be one day.

\*\*\*\*\*

EVER NOTICE how something awful happens when seemingly decent, intelligent people take office? Before they are voted in or gain appointment to office, some people seem to have courage, they know what's what and then they sit on a board and the spineless politician syndrome takes over. They're afraid of the truth, don't want to offend anyone, don't want to think for themselves. Now, this doesn't happen to all politicians, just 95%.

\*\*\*\*\*

LET THERE BE LIGHT? Well, according to some angry softball players, the Lone Pine Lions Club would only allow light on their own ball games one night not too long ago. Our sources tell us that the Lone Pine Merchants and Wilder Electronics teams were hot and heavy into a game. It was the last inning, the Merchants were at bat, bases were loaded, and there was one out. But dusk had arrived. The teams wanted to turn on the ball field lights put in by the Lions Club. But we are told that some Lions showed up to play and insisted that they be the first to swing the bat under the new lights. With many a grumble the two teams left and had to finish their game the next day.

Ah, brotherhood.

\*\*\*\*\*

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BIG RE-CALL Judge Harry Roberts scheme? A number of Mammoth attorneys, unhappy that word of their plans had leaked out, have talked strategy over such a possibility. But it is believed that they have no definite intentions for moving ahead. One of the problems --who will take Harry's place? The lawyers apparently found no good answer. Lawyers talked about these judicial hopefuls: County Counsel Neil Van Winkle, Judge Bill Murano, and maybe D.A. Ed Denton.

All of the re-call talk started when news got out about the recommendation for censure of Roberts by the State Supreme Court.

We hear some Mammoth lawyers refused to have anything to do with the re-call of Harry Roberts, a Bridgeport institution.

\*\*\*\*\*

IS THERE A SPECIAL SCHOOL where bureaucrats learn how to speak a different language? Somehow they've come up with a whole new set of words for plain old English. Makes it kind of hard to know what they're talking about, but maybe that's the idea.

Some of my favorite examples of bureaucratese: *precipitation event* (better known as rain or snow), *implementation* (that means do something), *fire hazard engineer* (you know, the guy that fights fires), *public information specialist* (he's the one who uses all the

continued next page



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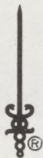
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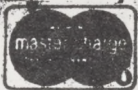
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